number of employees who have been brought under the umbrella of these schemes in the last 3 years is as under:—

Year	No. of Employees
1989-90	15,642
1990-91	14,157
1991-92	17,261

Income Tax Raids on Liquor Barons

3255. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the income tax Authorities assisted by revenue intelligence officials raided 37 offices, factories and other premises of top liquor barons of Southern India in August, 1992 and reportedly uncovered assets worth Rs. 80 crores disproportionate to their declared wealth;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Income tax sources did not rule out involvement of atleast one or more Karnataka Ministers and an IAS official in Bangalore for violation to FERA regulations; and

(c) if so, what action Government have taken so far in the matter and the total amount recovered/the items seized by Income tax authorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c) In August 1992, the Income-tax Department searched all office, residential and factory premises of Dasappa group, liquor contractors of Karnataka. Directorate of Revenue Intelligence was not associated. In the course of the searches, unaccounted assets worth Rs. 21.44 lakhs were seized. The group disclosed Rs. 20.34 crores as undisclosed income and Rs. 7.31 crores as undisclosed wealth under section 132(4) of the Income-tax Act and section 37A of the Wealth-tax Act respectively. No evidence showing involvement of any Karnataka Minister or IAS official for violation of FERA regulations has come to the notice of the Income-tax Department. Necessary follow-up investigations have been taken up on the basis of the seized materials.

3256 [*Transferred to 21st December, 1992*]

Effect of Exchange rate on Exports

3257. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the stability in the exchange rate of rupee has acted as disincentive to exporters;

(b) whether, it is also a fact that the rising exchange rate of the rupee against the Pound Sterling and the Mark is eroding the profitability of the exporters; and

(c) if so, what steps Government are taking to protect the interests of both the exporters and importers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c) Following the crisis in European currency markets since September, 1992, certain European currencies particularly the pound sterling and the Italian Lira depreciated. The consequent appreciation of the Rupee against these currencies may not have significant impact on India's trade as the U.K. and Italy together constitute less than 10 per cent of India's global trade. The Government is keeping a close watch on the movements in exchange rate of the Rupee. However, it may be noted that the official rate of the Rupee against the U.S. dollar has been changed from

Rs. 25.89 to Rs. 26.20 with effect from 4th December, 1992.

Proposal to overhaul Textile Duty Structure

3258. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to overhaul the textile duty structure on the basis of Chelliah Committee report; and

(b) if so, when this new duty structure for textile excise duty will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) In view of the ensuing budget for the year 1993-94, it is not possible to offer any comments at this stage.

International Development Association Loans for Agricultural Project in Rajasthan

3259. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Bank has approved an International Development Associate (IDA) credit of SDR 73 million (about $ 102 million) to help finance an Agricultural development project in Rajasthan as reported in the Indian Express of 15th November, 1992;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of such supported agricultural projects in Rajasthan out of the 130 World Bank/IDA proposed projects in the country based on its recently announced strategy to accelerate agricultural growth through improved technical and economic use of resources etc.; and

(c) whether these projects will help Rajasthan in Management and conservation policies and improved development planning etc., if so, the details of each such projects in respect of which aid has been given so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) An Agricultural Development Project for Rajasthan has recently been negotiated with the World Bank for an IDA credit of SDR 73.1 million (US $ 106.00 million equivalent).

(b) and (c) The Project is designed to assist the Govt. of Rajasthan to implement its new agriculture strategy and its objectives are to (a) accelerate the growth of agriculture through improved technical, financial and economic use of resources; (b) enhance the long term sustainability of growth through appropriate management and conservation of natural resources; (c) improve equity through better targeting of development programmes to the poorer strata of the rural population. The investment components of the project include crop husbandry, horticulture, animal husbandry water resources, agriculture research and training, rural roads, project coordination and environmental strengthening.

Poor performance of Nationalised Banks

3260. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the nationalised banks are in a poor financial shape and are incurring heavy losses; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to streamline the banking sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) As per the annual published accounts of nationalised banks, only two out of 20 such banks incurred losses for the year ended 31.3.1992. The annual accounts of the nationalised banks for the year ending 31.3.1993 are yet to be finalised.

Government and Reserve Bank of India have been taking from time to time such measures as are considered appropriate for improving the performance and profitability of nationalised banks.